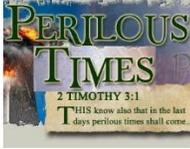


# Perilous Times and Our Response

## II Timothy 3:5b, 10-11

Series: Perilous Times in the last days from II Timothy 3 and 4.



Paul gave us 19 characteristics of society in the last days. We looked next at the evil men such as Jannes and Jambres in v.8. These were not only historical figures but they describe the spiritual impostors of the last days as well.



Today we look at what our response should be. Isn't that the bigger issue anyway? How should you and I respond to difficult days and spiritual impostors who come in the community and around the Church to deceive and lead people astray. We learn how from Paul's instructions to Timothy in these two chapters.

### I. Turn Away from False Religious People

*"And from such people turn away" (5b)*

After giving 19 characteristics of these in vv. 1-5, Paul says we are to turn away.

*"We are not to link up in common cause with them (1 Cor. 15:33)."*<sup>1</sup> Don't join them in their false show of religion.

Listen to I Corinthians 15:33, *"Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" (I Cor. 15:33)*

Like the Pharisees and scribes of Jesus day, they are concerned only with outward appearances. Don't get caught up in that kind of showy religion.

### II. Follow Solid Godly Examples

*"But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me..." (10-11a)*

These words, *"carefully followed"* indicate to follow beside, investigate, or understand. The point is they knew Paul's life.

Whose godly example can you follow? See if they resemble the godly life of Paul.

Notice the first thing Paul says Timothy had followed in his life.

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<sup>1</sup> Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). [Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary](#) (p. 1616). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

**1. Doctrine (10).** This relates to what Paul was teaching. Timothy knew what Paul was teaching others.

- What you believe about salvation determines where you will spend eternity.
- What you believe determines your behavior.

Not all religions are the same. Not all denominations are the same.

\* The thought for many in today's world is: It doesn't matter what you believe, just so you believe something. Please tell me what other part of life that will work with.

- Marriage?
- Work?
- Health?

And yet some believe they can treat their eternity so haphazardly. Make sure of the teachings of those who are leading others.

**2. Manner of Life (10).** QUESTION: Does it really matter **how someone lives who leads you?** It should.

Paul's life was not perfect but it was above reproach.

Paul gave qualifications of leaders in the church in the areas of their public and private behavior, among other things.

- A life that leads is a life that should be examined.

Paul also warns in 3:6 not to lay hands (showing approval and appointing to a position) on a novice (young convert). They haven't matured spiritually. He cautions again in 5:22 not to **"lay hands on anyone hastily."** Their lives must be proven... actually not only in conduct but in doctrine.

**3. Purpose (10).** Paul tells us his purpose in a couple scriptures: **"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."** (1 Corinthians 2:2)

**"So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..."** (Romans 1:15-16a)

Paul's purpose centered around the message of Jesus Christ to a lost world. What a great purpose!!

As followers of Christ we should purpose in our hearts to serve Jesus faithfully until He comes for us!

**4. Faith (10).** This faith is not a verb where you put your faith in God. It is a noun and deals with what a person believes about God, creation, salvation, the Bible, etc. It is their **set of beliefs**. It can be seen as their convictions.

If you don't nail down your beliefs based on scripture you will be more apt to fall for false teaching.

**5. Longsuffering (10).** Endurance or Patience with his adversaries. There will always be enemies of the Lord and it takes longsuffering in dealing with them.

**6. Love (10).** Love toward all people. Paul had given up any prejudices so he could win anyone to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**7. Perseverance (10).** Endurance or patience amid tough circumstances. Paul didn't give up and throw in the towel when things got bad serving Jesus. We're about to see how bad it got.

**8. Persecutions (11).** *Gr. verb that lit. means "to put to flight."*<sup>2</sup> Paul was persecuted for the cause of Christ. He had to flee many times just to stay alive. Living for Christ brought persecution as it does for millions around the world today.

**9. Afflictions (11).** Can be rendered sufferings. Paul gives a list of the places he suffered in different ways for preaching and teaching Jesus.

Paul knew about physical suffering for Christ.

In **II Corinthians 11:23-28** Paul details a list of ways he had suffered for the cause of Christ. It included: stripes on his body, falsely imprisoned more than once, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked (3X), and the list goes on.

No wonder he said in Galatians 6:17 **"I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus"** or for the Lord Jesus.

Paul's personal testimony is in v. 11: **"And out of them all the Lord delivered me" (11b).**

This would encourage young Timothy as he served Christ and faced any opposition and afflictions. It should also encourage us for the little opposition we face for Christ.

### **BRINGING IT HOME** where we live:

In these last days in which we live:

\* **Don't be caught up with showy religion** that has no substance and reality to it. It is deceptive and leads to hell.

\* **Follow the example of those who have a solid faith** and their life reflects it.

\* **Could our lives be followed by someone else** and it lead them to Jesus and a godly life?

**May the Lord help us as we ponder that last question b/c usually someone is watching our life.**

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<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). [The MacArthur Study Bible](#) (electronic ed., p. 1879). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.